

Appl. No. : **09/997,551**
Filed : **November 27, 2001**

REMARKS

Restriction to one of the following groups was required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I: Claims 1-4, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering any of pyridinyl imidazole SB203580, SB202190, SB220025, SC68376, or SKF-86002 to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 235.8.

Group II: Claims 1-4 and 7, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering a dominant-negative mutant of p38 α MAP kinase to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 2.

Group III: Claims 1-4 and 7, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering a dominant-negative mutant of p38 β MAP kinase to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 2.

Group IV: Claims 1-3, 5 and 7, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering an antisense molecule of p38 MAP kinase to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

Group V: Claims 1-3, 6 and 7, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering a vector expressing a p38 MAP kinase inhibitory protein to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

Group VI: Claims 8-12, drawn to a method of screening for regulators of mucin production, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Group VII: Claims 13-20, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering a dominant-negative mutant of PI-3 kinase to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 2.

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Group VIII: Claims 13-20, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering a constitutively active form of p110 (p110-CAAX) to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 2.

Group IX: Claims 13-20, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering wild-type Akt to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 544, subclass 2.

Group X: Claims 13-20, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering an antisense molecule to p38 MAP kinase to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

Group XI: Claims 13-20, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering a vector expressing a protein that activates PI-3 kinase to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I, that is Claims 1-4, drawn to a method of treatment of overproduction of mucin in a mammal comprising administering any of pyridinyl imidazole SB203580, SB202190, SB220025, SC68376, or SKF-86002 to the mammal in an amount sufficient to reduce mucin production.

New Claims 21 and 22 have been added. The new claims depend on Claim 1 of the elected Group I. Support for the new Claims can be found in the Specification as filed on page 14, lines 28-29. Therefore, no new matter has been introduced herewith.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to issuance. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 11/6/03

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